IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A buffering mechanism comprising:

a housing member for housing an object;

at least three shaft units mounted to said object and extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of thickness of said object; and

an elastic member formed of an elastic material and provided with a shaft accommodating opening[[;]],

wherein one ~~said~~ shaft unit is ~~being~~ introduced into said shaft accommodating opening of said elastic member[[;]], and at least a portion of the outer lateral surface of said elastic member is received by a rectangular aperture ~~being contacted with the inner surface~~ of said housing member.

Claim 2 (Original): The buffering mechanism according to claim 1 wherein said shaft accommodating opening is cylindrically-shaped.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The buffering mechanism according to claim 1 wherein said object contains ~~is~~ a recording medium.

Claim 4 (Original): The buffering mechanism according to claim 1 wherein said housing member is contacted with said elastic member as clinching said elastic member from at least two directions, that is, from a direction of extension of said shaft unit and the direction substantially perpendicular thereto.

Claim 5 (Original): The buffering mechanism according to claim 1 wherein the outer shape of said elastic member is substantially cylindrically-shaped.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The buffering mechanism according to claim 5 wherein the outer peripheral surface of said elastic member has a convex shape ~~is convexed~~ when seen from the circumferential direction.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A recording and/or reproducing apparatus comprising:

a housing member for housing a recording medium;

a recording and/or reproducing unit for recording and/or reproducing the information for said recording medium;

at least three shaft units mounted to a container containing said recording medium and extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of thickness of said recording medium; and

an elastic member formed of an elastic material and provided with a shaft accommodating opening[[;]],

wherein one ~~said~~ shaft unit is ~~being~~ introduced into said shaft accommodating opening of said elastic member[[;]], and at least a portion of the outer lateral surface of said elastic member is received by a rectangular aperture ~~being contacted with the inner surface~~ of said housing member.

Claim 8 (Original): The recording and/or reproducing apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said shaft accommodating opening of said elastic member is cylindrically-shaped.

Claim 9 (Original): The recording and/or reproducing apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said housing member is contacted with said elastic member as clinching said elastic member from at least two directions, that is, a from direction of extension of said shaft unit and the direction substantially perpendicular thereto.

Claim 10 (Original): The recording and/or reproducing apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the outer shape of said elastic member is substantially cylindrically-shaped.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The recording and/or reproducing apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the outer peripheral surface of said elastic member has a convex shape ~~is convexed~~ when seen from the circumferential direction.

Claim 12 (New): A buffering mechanism comprising:

a housing member for housing an object;

at least three shaft means for mounting to said object and extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of thickness of said object; and

an elastic means for buffering formed of an elastic material and provided with a shaft accommodating opening,

wherein one shaft means is introduced into said shaft accommodating opening of said elastic means for buffering, and at least a portion of the outer lateral surface of said elastic means for buffering is received by a rectangular aperture of said housing member.

Claim 13 (New): The buffering mechanism according to claim 12 wherein said shaft accommodating opening is cylindrically-shaped.

Claim 14 (New): The buffering mechanism according to claim 12 wherein said object contains a recording medium.

Claim 15 (New): The buffering mechanism according to claim 12 wherein said housing member is contacted with said elastic means for buffering as clinching said elastic means for buffering from at least two directions, that is, from a direction of extension of said shaft unit and the direction substantially perpendicular thereto.

Claim 16 (New): The buffering mechanism according to claim 12 wherein the outer shape of said elastic means for buffering is substantially cylindrically-shaped.

Claim 17 (New): The buffering mechanism according to claim 17 wherein the outer peripheral surface of said elastic means for buffering has a convex shape when seen from the circumferential direction.